



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation



In Reply Refer To:

DOT# 2016-0361

EPA File Nos. 30R-16-R3

October 6, 2016

Mark J. Belton
Secretary
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **Alternative Dispute Resolution**

Dear Secretary Belton:

As you aware, on September 23, 2016, the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) (collectively, "recipients") and Earthjustice, on behalf of the Brandywine TB Coalition and Patuxent Riverkeeper, agreed to engage in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). As a result, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Department Office of Civil Rights (DOCR) with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) suspended their investigation of the subject complaint for the duration of the ADR process. OCR, DOCR, and PHMSA will resume their investigation if the parties do not reach resolution through ADR. More information about EPA's ADR process can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/ocr/frequently-asked-questions-about-use-alternative-dispute-resolution-resolving-title-vi>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ryan Fitzpatrick, Lead Civil Rights Analyst in DOT's Departmental Office of Civil Rights, or Brittany Martinez, Case Manager in EPA's Office of Civil Rights, with any questions about the investigation. Mr. Fitzpatrick can be reached at (202) 366-1979, or ryan.fitzpatrick@dot.gov. Ms. Martinez can be reached at (202) 564-0727, or martinez.brittany@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Yvette Rivera
Associate Director
Department Office of Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Transportation



Rosanne Goodwill
Director
Office of Civil Rights
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration



Lilian S. Dorka
Acting Director
Office of Civil Rights
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